Notes/News

Forthcoming events

- 28-29 Apr Diagnostic Imaging of the Shoulder, Elbow and Wrist Joints. A Radiological Challenge. Symposium organised by GETROA in Brussels, Belgium
Contact: Dr F Schuind, Department of Orthopaedics, Erasmus University Hospital, 808 route de Lennik, B-1070 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 2 555 68 44. Fax: +32 2 520 35 56. Email: fschuind@ulb.ac.be
- 3-7 May II International Conference on Mediterranean Fever, Antalya, Turkey
Contact: Figür Tourism Ltd, Nişantaşı İhlamur Yolu, Yonca Apt. No 40/3, 80200 Topağacı, Istanbul, Turkey. Tel: +90 212 232 52 19. Fax: +90 212 231 12 62. Email: figurnorth@tradenet.com.tr
- 9-12 May BSR XVII AGM, Brighton
Contact: Ms Caroline Pembroke, Conference Manager, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Tel: +44 171 242 3313. Fax: +44 171 242 3277. Email: caroline@rheumatology.org.uk
- 10-13 May 3rd Central European Congress of Rheumatology, Bratislava, Slovakia
Contact: Congress Secretariat, Congress Department of the Slovak Medical Association, Mrs Soňa Kozáková, Legionárska 4, 813 22 Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Tel: + 421 7 554 24 015. Fax: + 421 7 554 22 363. Email: secretarysma@ba.telecom.sk
- 13-15 May 44th Annual Meeting of the Japan Rheumatism Association, Yokohama, Japan
Contact: Dr Tomihisa Koshino, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Yokohama City University School of Medicine, 3-9 Fukuura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama, 236-0004, Japan. Tel: +81 45 787 2655. Fax: +81 45 781 7922.
- 18-21 May International Society for Musculoskeletal and Neuronal Interactions Workshop, Delphi, Greece
Contact: Mrs Maria Katsiri, PO Box, 51081, 145 10 Kifissia, Greece. Tel: +30 1 623 1840. Fax: +30 1 801 8122. Email: info@ismni.org
- 21-24 June 1st Annual EULAR Congress, Nice, France
Contact: Fred Wyss, Executive Secretary, EULAR, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032, Zurich, Switzerland. Tel: +41 1 383 9690. Fax: +41 1 383 9810. Email: eular@bluewin.ch Website: www.eular.org
- 7-10 Sep 28th Scandinavian Congress of Rheumatology, Turku, Finland
Contact: Congress Office/Rheuma 2000, University of Turku, Lemminkäisenkatu 14-18B, FIN-20520 Turku, Finland. Tel: +358 2 333 6342. Fax: +358 2 333 6410. Email: cescon@tkk.utu.fi
- 4-7 Oct 2nd International Congress on Spondyloarthropathies, Gent, Belgium
Contact: Medicongress, Waalpoel 28, B-9960 Assenede, Belgium. Tel: +32 9 344 39 59. Fax: +32 9 344 40 10. Email: congresses@medicongress.com

Book review

Lupus—molecular and cellular pathogenesis. Edited by Gary M Kammer, George C Tsokos. (Pp 720; \$195). Totowa, NJ: The Human Press, 1999. ISBN 0-89603-556-5.

Given that there are already two major textbooks about systemic lupus erythematosus, you have to ask whether a further 700 page volume dedicated to this fascinating but relatively uncommon disease is really warranted. Indeed, extending this question, who is likely to buy a volume like this, which in reality covers a very broad spectrum of immunology (though this is essential given the diversity of defects reported in patients with lupus) but says little about clinical expression of the disease.

However, for those interested in the causes of lupus, all of the major and relevant topics are here. Many of the chapters are well written, but the absence of colour plates detracts significantly from many of the figures especially those purporting to show immunofluorescence (really a waste of time in black and white) and others demonstrating molecular models.

Although the editors have in the main, coaxed worthwhile efforts from most, though not all of their authors, the sequence of the chapters is decidedly odd. In particular chapters on B cells and antibodies appear at random throughout the book

and it is not terribly clear why the main chapters on genetics, chapters 7 and 8, are so widely separated from other chapters with strong genetic connections such as chapter 17 (describing a genetic mechanism underlying deficient type 1 protein kinase A) and chapters 32–34 (on complement and Fc gamma receptor polymorphisms). Nor is it easy to understand why a chapter on the antiphospholipid antibody syndrome (albeit well written by Robert Roubey) is included but there is no mention of Sjögren's syndrome or other complicating clinical disorders.

A great deal of effort has gone into the production of this volume, which contains 40 chapters mostly up to date (or at least as well as any textbook could be) and written by leaders in the field. If only the publishers had "invested" in some colour and the editors had lined up their chapters in a more logical way the end result would have been far more enjoyable.

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